

CIA 1.04 My eyes, Robert  
Org presented for Nation  
 Security Studies  
 Borosage, Robert  
 Brooke, Edward

## Open Secrets

Under the patronage of Senators Edward Brooke of Massachusetts and Philip Hart of Michigan, the Center for National Security Studies will sponsor a conference on "The Central Intelligence Agency and Covert Actions" September 12 and 13 on Capitol Hill. Robert Borosage, a young lawyer in the Nader mold, is head of the Center and the moving force behind the conference.

Borosage has no first-hand experience in intelligence, which may well qualify him as a critic. He wants the conference to "start a public debate," and he hopes the panels will produce thoughtful and animated discussion. The possibility that such discussion will lead to a not-very-secret secret service seems to bother him not at all.

"The cost of enforcing the rules is so great domestically for the benefit of those in bureaucratic power," Borosage says, "that it is better to go with the limited classification of secrets." This is a rather simplistic solution to the whole problem of security classification in government—in a very real sense it advocates solving the problem by denying that a problem exists.

In Borosage's view the remaining secret information—say one percent of what is now classified—would be protected by a "code of honor" among those in the intelligence establishment. Such a code worked to the satisfaction of the intelligence bureaucracy as long as only the "old boys" of the old boy network were doing the writing—Allen Dulles in *The Cult of Intelligence* and Miles Copeland in *The Game of Nations*. The code broke down with the recent publication of *The CIA and the Cult of Intelligence* by Victor Marchetti and John Marks.

Not surprisingly, Marchetti and Marks, outcasts of the regular intelligence establishment, will be the stars of the September conference. Marchetti especially has been criticized for using his

privileged position as a CIA agent to expose many of the agency's cherished secrets. Others, notably the American Civil Liberties Union, have praised as an heroic gesture his breach of the CIA secrecy agreement all employees must take.

Marchetti and Marks will lead the panel discussion on "The Scope and Structure of the Intelligence Community." Other panelists include Thomas Ross on "The CIA's Covert Operations in the United States"; Richard Falk on "Covert Operations and the International Law"; and Borosage himself on "Covert Operations and the Constitution." Traditional intelligence heavies such as Ray S. Cline, former CIA and State Department intelligence specialist, will add leaven to the conference's loaf.

Borosage seems to agree with the new school of intelligence theory—namely, that it's impossible for an intelligence organization to do much good. "Foreign espionage doesn't work against the top Communist countries," he says, "So what we are talking about is putting people on the Agency's payroll (in minor foreign countries) to influence events, not to collect intelligence." This effort by the CIA to push people around, the new critics feel, causes crises in foreign affairs.

The conference's attempt to open the intelligence closet should draw critics of the system like bees to honey. In the wake of Watergate and the neo-isolationism that spreads with inflation, the old system is more vulnerable than ever. "National security" is now an inoperative defense. So if you drop by Borosage's conference, feel free to join in the discussion. And above all, don't keep any secrets.

--Robert J. Milder

(Editor's note: The writer is a former employee of the Central Intelligence Agency.)

Hart, Philip

CIA 1.04 Marchetti, Victor

Marks, John

CIA 1.03 Cline, Ray S.

CONFERENCE: The  
 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE  
 AGENCY AND COVERT  
 ACTIONS